

Collective Worship Policy for Salway Ash CE VA Primary School

We believe that church school worship starts from the principle that all pupils, staff and visitors are equally important and equally valuable in God's sight.

Worship should be inclusive and delivered in a way that enables all members of the school community to feel able to be part of the experience. The family and cultural backgrounds of the pupils we serve should also be remembered and respected.

Salway Ash School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school and as such has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'.

Rationale

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces many of the school's aims, vision and values.

Our aim at Salway Ash School is to:

- provide a safe and supportive environment where children, staff, parents, governors all work in partnership with the local community to attain high standards, achieving academic, creative, spiritual, social and emotional fulfilment.
- develop pupils who are kind and considerate towards one another and want to make a positive contribution to the world around them
- provide a secure, caring Christian ethos that enables us to grow together, learn together and inspire each other.

School values:

- Compassion
- Perseverance
- Hope
- Respect
- Joy

The common strands are:

- care and support;
- respect and responsibility;
- reflective self-development;
- relationships.

In keeping with these aims, Collective Worship at Salway Ash School is planned to:

- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- provide a worthwhile educational experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background;

- provide opportunities for staff, pupils and members of the wider community to contribute to the life of the School;
- provide opportunities for worshipping God, reverence, celebration and reflection; enable pupils to reflect on Christian and other worthwhile values and beliefs;
- provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths;
- provide pupils with “something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to”.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Salway Ash School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which, in community schools, should not be distinctive of the tradition and practice of particular religious denominations.

Salway Ash School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school and as such has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be ‘in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England’.

The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from acts of worship.

Content of the Collective Worship programme

According to the government guidance (circular 1/94):

- 'Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs' (para 50).

This advice is put into practice in our programme.

- 'Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power' (para 57), and

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time using colours and symbols to frame the sacred space, using agreed liturgical beginnings and endings, using music, singing, images, story and silence. Collective worship also is planned with our Christian Values in mind and using the SPIRIT guidance in our spirituality policy.

These also offer specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children's own beliefs and traditions.

- 'An act of worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material. It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ' (para 63).

Material for assemblies comes from a wide variety of sources including Christian. Most assemblies in any term reflect traditions of Christian belief and the special status accorded to Jesus Christ.

Organisation of Collective Worship

1. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the school team.
2. Whole school collective worship takes place twice a week. These are taken by members of staff, the visiting vicar, pupils etc.

The assemblies generally follow themes that are aligned to the delivery of personal and social development programmes, although topical or other relevant issues may be picked up as appropriate. The content of these assemblies would be varied but include a significant Christian input within any term.

3. Class Teacher-led Reflections

Each week, class teachers will lead a class worship which follows the themes explored during the acts of worship led by the vicar or headteacher. During the term pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection and these are recorded in a class book.

A response may be made in diary form. These responses are confidential between the pupils and his/her teacher. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives.

4. Whole School Assemblies

Four times a week the school gathers for assemblies. These may include achievements of pupils being celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama and dance. Assemblies will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

5. Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

6. Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Re. Jo Neary is involved on a regular basis with the assembly programme. Other staff are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

7. Pupil involvement in Collective Worship

Pupils are encouraged to play an active role in Collective Worship. A group of older children in the school form our Collective Worship monitors who take an active role in supporting children in responding to the themes and values explored each week. They conduct a reflection on worship delivered by the Headteacher and vicar and have a half-termly opportunity to lead an act of Collective Worship which reinforces the preceding week's themes.

8. Summary of Salway Ash School pattern of worship organisation

Day	Person Leading	Main Hall
Monday	Vicar	Whole school 9.a.m

Tuesday	Headteacher	Whole school 9.a.m.
Wednesday	Worship through Music (<i>Music co-ordinator</i>)	Whole school 9.a.m.
Thursday	Class teachers	Key Stage morning
Friday	Celebration Assembly (parents invited)	Whole school 9.a.m.

Policy agreed by Board of Governors on 29.09.2022